

II. Making A FOIA Request

1. Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all individual agency components that receive FOIA requests.

For the names, addresses, and telephone numbers, visit our website at <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/21416>

2. Brief description of why some requests are not granted and an overview of certain general categories of the agency's records to which the FOIA exemptions apply.

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) releases information in response to requests under the FOIA unless an exemption applies and GSA has a compelling reason to invoke the exemption. Even if the information falls clearly within an exemption, GSA discloses information unless the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one of the statutory exemptions, or disclosure is prohibited by law. Exemptions 4 through 7 are the most common exemptions that apply to GSA records.

The General Services Administration Office of Inspector General (GSA OIG) is responsible for promoting economy, efficiency, and effectiveness and detecting and preventing fraud, waste, and mismanagement in the GSA's programs and operations. This is accomplished primarily by performing independent financial, program, information technology, contract and compliance audits and criminal and civil investigations. As a result, many of the records maintained by the GSA OIG involve law enforcement matters. The GSA OIG invokes the FOIA's two privacy exemptions, more than the rest of the other exemptions combined, to prevent unwarranted invasions of the personal privacy of individuals mentioned in law enforcement records. The GSA OIG also protects the identities of confidential informants who provide information to investigators, details about investigative techniques and procedures, and information that could endanger the life or public safety of our investigators. Additionally, the GSA OIG protects from disclosure trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained through the auditing function that is privileged or confidential as well as information covered by the civil discovery privileges.